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COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE STATES AND TERRITORIES.

[The New National Era does not hold itself responsible
for views expressed by correspondents. Well written
and interesting communications will be gladly received.]

From West Virginia.

PARKERSBURG, W. VA.,
June 17, 1874.

Sir: I have not for a long time taken any active part in the civil and political questions of the day, although feeling the most lively interest in each as they have sprung up from time to time. I have been, and still am, willing to leave the management of these questions in the hands of our more able writers and speakers. But having seen in your valuable journal of the 14th instant two propositions which I regard to be of the first importance to us in our struggle for equal rights, and fearing they might be passed over without that notice which I think you will agree with me they are entitled. You will greatly oblige an old citizen by allowing me a small space in your valuable and much read journal, in which I wish to endorse said propositions, and appeal to our able writers and speakers to utilize and keep them constantly in view. The first proposition to which I refer is contained in a letter addressed by the Hon. Mr. Alcorn to Hon. Frederick Douglass—"Let us be logical, and we shall be just," and I will add, we shall succeed. The second is contained, if I am not mistaken, in an editorial of the same date—"We must become possessors of lands, homesteads," &c.

Sir, in taking a view of the whole situation, the ground over which we have come, and the means that have brought us on thus far; then onward to what is yet to be gained, and the enemies yet to be conquered to me it appears plain that these two propositions contain in themselves all the forces that are necessary on our part in order to secure complete success, and fortunately they are both at our command. Now take the first proposition—"Let us be logical," &c.

Sir, it is not my purpose, had I the ability, here to elaborate upon the nature, rules, &c., in logic; but all who have given the least attention, know the use and power of logic in everything—science, morals, government, and religion—and I think I am safe in saying there never was a greater, if equal, demonstration, both of its use and power, in governments, as has been seen in the revolution of our own Government within the last few years past. Here it is to be borne in mind that this revolution was not effected by the abrogation of the old Constitution, and the substitution of a new instrument. That fact shows more conspicuously the power of logic; and I would have it ever kept in mind and permeate all arguments in defense of our rights, that in the hour when our nation stood trembling in the midst of the surrounding nations, with one-half of the States broken off, and were merely held for the time being by the national military, (and well-mixed at that,) and the emancipation proclamation gone forth; and while the great question, "What is to be done with the negro?" was still a political problem, then it was that the immortal Charles Sumner stepped forth in the United States Senate, planting himself squarely upon the old Constitution, by the power of logic brought out, in a national and political sense, the interpretation of Sumner's riddle, "Out of the eater came meat, and out of the strong came forth sweetness;" and the enemies of justice are not yet willing to interpret it; and I hold that we must hold them to it until they do, by the force of logic, of which he was master. He proved from that old instrument, which had hitherto been interpreted and administered in the maintenance of slavery, "that the only true government authorized by that instrument is republican in form;" second, "that it is the duty of Congress to guarantee to each State a government, republican in form;" third; by the law of the civilized world all men are citizens of the country in which they are born;" and as it could not be proved that the negroes were less than men, they were, of course, a portion of the nationality or body politic." These facts having been irrefutably established, the way was clear for the necessary legislation to bring the Constitution and laws up to this primary design, foreshadowed in the Preamble and Constitution of the United States; and thus we have the thirteenth, fourteenth, and fifteenth amendments. And here, sir, is our impregnable fort and stronghold, from whence we bring out our claims and arguments. When this much had been gained slavery was now dead and buried; and the friends of justice laid down their armor, thinking that "all was well;" but lo! and behold! here comes prejudice with all the hatred, malice, and injustice peculiar to the slave system, which the immortal Sumner characterized as the "ghost of slavery." Let us thank God that he is disarmed of the power of law. His mode of attack is confined to that of sophistry, evasion, and stealth.

Sir, there is a maxim in the practice of physics that opposites must be used in certain cases. Poisons, for instance, in order to effect a cure. That maxim is good in this case. It is a well known fact that neither slavery nor his ghost was never known to be logical, and that has always been their weakness. So that we cannot doubt that the same force or forces that killed slavery will, if not destroy his ghost, drive him into secluded quarters, where we claim to have no further business with him. We can hope to do but little by the cry for sympathy, humanity, and the like. We all know that both slavery and prejudice have trampled humanity in the dust when they were clothed with the arm of law. So we must give him "logic," as Mr. Alcorn says. Go to the bottom; dig out the foundation on which he stands; expose his fallacy; here we have the advantage of all laws, both human and divine, and all true history. Well do I remember the great sensation created at Washington when Hon. Daniel Webster in his great compromise speech in 1850, brought out the historical fact that slavery never existed in any country on the same ground as American slavery, viz., color. This his-

torical fact was startling for two reasons. First, it was not known when he first brought out the fact that he intended to compromise, as much depended upon him. Second, The fact itself was in diametrical opposition to the common teachings from the bar, the pulpit, and the press, whose theory was that color was everywhere the insignia of moral and mental inferiority. Since these ideas have grown with the growth and strengthened with the strength of the nation, is it not after all a wonder that the ghost against whom we are contending is not, to say the least, more reckless?

Mr. Editor, the second to proposition to which I above referred—namely, we must possess lands, homesteads, &c., suggests the idea of a flank movement on the common enemy—a movement in which all are interested, and therefore all ought to wheel into line. Not only those of us commonly called freedmen, but the movement should be general; and a system or scheme introduced that from the highest to the lowest might take a share. When two enemies are about to engage in a conflict, the victory greatly depends upon which has the vantage ground. Such was the case with General Taylor at Buena Vista. We are American citizens, and are not going to Africa or any other place, except as others go and come. Therefore we must have a foothold in this country. We must have lands. And what does this mean? It means merchandise, trade, and all the various occupations from which we are now excluded, and are liable to be still more so by the enemy. Such a scheme, it must be seen, would draw off advantageously from the cities and towns, and political arenas thousands of our people and raise them from the servile state to that of wealth and industry, and prevent them from becoming the mere dupes of such men as we now see in Congress elected by their votes and then turn their heel against them.

Mr. Editor, this scheme is not a new idea with me. A few years ago I watched with great anxiety this same proposition sent by the distinguished Bishop Payne to a convention that met at Washington; but, unfortunately, as I think, it was informally passed over. Now let us utilize those two propositions; and let all our people everywhere put the brakes hard down at the ballot-box, and sooner or later it is my humble opinion we shall be successful in driving the ghost into secluded quarters, which he will starve to death. So let it be.

W. S. WILSON.

From Virginia.

HAMPTON, VA., June 12, 1874.

The fourth annual commencement of the Hampton Normal School was held in the Assembly Room of the Institute on Thursday, the 11th instant. The visitors were not so numerous this year as they were last, but the exercises were equally as good and entertaining. The morning exercises consisted of recitations by the various classes in the recitation rooms and rhetorical exercises, all of which were conducted to the great satisfaction of the audience. After the examination was over the students and visitors repaired to the Assembly Rooms, where excellent music was furnished by the Band of the National Soldiers' Home. At 11.30 A. M. the music ceased, and then came the THEORETICAL EXERCISES.

Music by the choir.
Salutatory—George J. Davis.
Recitation—Maud Muller—By Miss Millie Calloway.
Orator—A. E. White.
Essay—Work—By Miss Mary E. Melvin.
This was an effort well worth the audience of any assembly. The matter which it contained, and the excellent construction of its sentences, showed that there had been much time and brain spent to make the composition a successful one.
Selection—Benjamin E. Tonsler.
Reading—M. M. Mendhall.
Music—Choir.
Recitation—Bernardo Del Carpio—Jennie Joy.
Essay—Temperance—Grace McLean.
Select Reading—The Vagabonds—by Wm. T. Greenough, who stands a model for his class and the institute he has so recently left, in intellect and morals. He will undoubtedly be one of our future philosophers. He read well, being entirely at ease from embarrassment. He would have his audience at one time tickled with delight, and then they sat with tears in their eyes.
Valedictory—George E. Stephens.

The diplomas were presented by the Rev. George E. Whipple, of New York, after a few impressive and fitting remarks. These exercises being closed, the invited guests were requested to repair to "Virginia Hall," where lunch was served. After lunch, all were asked to the New Chapel, where music was to be furnished by the Military Band of Fort Monroe, and speaking by a few prominent men, among whom were Gen. O. O. Howard, of Washington, D. C.; Rev. Dr. Armstrong, of Norfolk, Virginia; State Senator Allen, Dr. Ruffner, State Superintendent Public Instruction, and others. Dr. Armstrong was introduced, and said: He remembered being lost near a mountain while traveling with a friend, and becoming separated, they wandered for many hours, and at last they both came together at the top of the mountain to-day. [Great applause.]

He spoke in glowing praise of the school, and promised to use his influence in its behalf. Senator Allen said: Ladies and Gentlemen, and the College at large, when such men as Dr. Armstrong, who he considered the mouth-piece of public opinion in this State, spoke so favorably of the school, we may be sure of its success. He said that the entire colored race in the United States is looking to this institute for their elevation. Gen. Howard made some very brief remarks upon *love and money*, which were quite pleasing to the audience and instructive to the students, as was shown by the frequent applauses. Dr. Ruffner was next introduced, and, stepping forward, said: Ladies and Gentlemen: Among the things that I never ex-

pected to do was "to love Gen. Howard." At this Gen. Howard arose from his seat, and he and Ruffner shook hands, amid a tremendous laughter and applause. This speech was a political one, dry and unentertaining. It would have been more suitable on the stump than at the closing exercises of an institution of learning. He spoke so long that other men of more prominence than he had to leave unheard from. He made an attack on the civil rights bill and Congress; said that the bill was injurious to the colored people; says he, what would you think of a Congress that would spend millions on civil rights and none on education? I would say that in passing the civil rights bill Congress will be spending money on education, and that for the benefit of the Southern Democrats, of whom he is a representative. It will be teaching them, by compulsion, to live up to right and justice; to treat their fellow beings as such, and to remember that all men are created equal, &c., which they do not now know.

Yours, truly,
C. D. JOHNSON.

LOTTSBURGH, VA., June 8, 1874.

To the Editor of the New National Era:
The sad, dark day that has so long been coming overtakes us at last, and this "Holly School" at Lottsburg, planted by the Freedmen's Bureau, and fostered by gifts, sympathies, hopes, and prayers of the noblest and best friends of the colored race in America, shares the fate of so many Freedmen's schools all over the South, and is today, broken up by mob violence. Saturday at noon, Carey Nutt began the felon's work of seizing the U. S. Post Office property and all of our school property, and forcibly thrusting it out of those walls built by him and his father under their solemn pledge to the Government, it should be a school-house forever. And there lie those precious implements and treasures of knowledge the prey of rebel hate to all that educates and elevates the negro. You would weep with me at the costly sacrifice, and your just indignation would kindle at the wicked treachery of Pyramus Nutt, who took the Government's hundred dollars to pay him for building a school house; and now, at the beck of these old slave-masters, rob the people of their sacred right, breaks up our schools, and destroys its books, maps, and beautiful "object lesson charts," &c., that he may make the school-house a Baptist church. How glad these Rebels are to watch the work of their puppets while they secretly pull the wires! For without the aid and countenance of these white Virginia Democrats, these few colored men of the Baptist church would be powerless to rob the rest of their school.

These same men, Pyramus Nutt, and Carey son, have just failed in a conspiracy with the white Democrats, all enemies alike of the Civil Rights Bill, to get me removed as postmaster. So their rage is intensified to the point of violating the U. S. Postal laws, making it my duty to call on the U. S. Government to protect its post office.

I also solemnly call on the Baptist Association at Washington, of which Pyramus Nutt is a member, to refuse further fellowship with such an audacious robber and breaker of faith with the Government.

The facts are well known to the old officers of the Freedmen's Bureau, and the Colored Baptist Association owes it to itself to repudiate such an openly dishonest member as Pyramus Nutt.

It should help colored men to keep their word and not allow them to break it, and bring disgrace upon their body.

For these men Pyramus and Carey Nutt are really despised by the white Democrats, who use them as their tools. Our school is especially hated because we have supported so faithfully the doctrine of Charles Sumner's Civil Rights Bill. Our scholars have become thoroughly acquainted with its objects, and drank in of its spirit, and they recite many eloquent passages from his speeches, and are all anxiously watching and hoping for its final passage in Congress.

Truly yours,
C. F. PUTNAM.

From Mississippi.

JACKSON, MISS., June 26, 1874.

No weekly visitor is more welcome to me than the ERA. It is as new as the events of the day, as national as the sentiments of our broad country, and it truly represents the era in which we live.

Long live the NEW NATIONAL ERA, and may an abundance of this world's goods flow into the coffers of the Douglass Brothers.

AFFAIRS IN MISSISSIPPI,
are somewhat stirred, and we are closely watching the course of events. To say that we are satisfied with the manner in which the Civil Rights Bill has been overlooked would be an insult to our people. We are not disposed to lay a stumbling-block in the way of national legislation, and neither are we disposed to stack our arms and suffer ourselves to be marched over like so many cattle. The time for smoothing over things has passed, and the sooner we know our real friends the better.

The Associate Press agents have telegraphed all over the country that the President is opposed to the civil rights bill, and had it reached him during the recent session, he would have vetoed it. I am not altogether disposed to believe this, but I must say that the course of certain leading Republican journals which are always friendly to the President, seems to indicate his feelings in the matter. The New York Times, the Washington Republican, and the St. Louis Globe have taken a firm stand against the passage of the bill. These papers have always advocated the passage of the President's favorite measures, but their opposition to the civil rights bill, together with the long delay of the Judiciary Committee of the House in reporting their bill, and the manner in which the Senate bill has been disposed of in the House, have caused us to ponder whether the President favors our full and complete rights or not. We can often judge what a person's feelings are on certain questions by putting this and that together, and

see how they look. And I must say that by putting certain things and actions together, I am compelled to ask myself if President Grant is disposed to stand by the recommendations made in his last inaugural address. There is sometimes a period in the course of events when forbearance ceases to be a virtue, and I believe that time has fully arrived as regards the position taken by our immediate representatives in Congress. Were I a member of Congress I would simply say to the majority that my rights as an American citizen are dearer to me than finance, railroads, canals, levees, moieties, reform, or any other measure; and if you wish to have my vote on these matters, you must give me that which belongs to me first, and then I will consider your propositions. Charles Sumner is the father of the civil rights measure, and I trust that our colored members will be like him, in soaring above any proposition to compromise. Never compromise a principle! And if it is necessary for the colored members to combine and stop legislation in order to get our rights, let the combination be made at once—let it be perfect and complete; and if there is not a sufficient number to block the wheels, we will send more from the South. We are in earnest in this demand; and we will not cease to agitate, and we will not multiply ourselves by accepting a compromise.

The great hobby seem to be the school clause? Well, what of that? Are not the public schools of nearly every Northern city already opened to colored children? And ought not the public schools of the South be opened to them? Those in New Orleans are already mixed. In some of them there are as many colored as there are whites, not separated in classes, but recite and sit by the side of each other; and the more refined the white children are the less prejudice they seem to have. Louisiana, Arkansas, Florida, and Mississippi have colored men as State Superintendents of Public Instruction, yet the system is not marred, and everything goes on smoothly. I presume they visit the white schools in their respective States, (I know our Superintendent does,) and are treated courteously. In fact no objection is raised when the law is on the side of justice. Tennessee seems to be greatly alarmed at the school clause. Well, if Tennessee does not like it, let her make the most of it. Better that the whole State should be reduced to ashes than that the rights of five million Americans should be denied them.

I see that FREDERICK DOUGLASS has written a letter to Senator Alcorn thanking him for his speech on the civil rights bill! Well, I hope Alcorn is in earnest, but I am not one of those to trust him yet. His whole course while Governor of our State, his course during our late campaign, and the course of his whole life are so greatly antagonistic to the utterances of his speech that I am forced to believe that it was only made as a bid for colored votes eighteen months hence when he will be a candidate for the United States Senate. We know Alcorn too well in this section of Eve's garden!

In his special message to the Legislature in 1871, he says: "I hope to see the University of Oxford placed, superior to all classes of party or of race, a perpetual glory of the Mississippians of my own blood!" And during the session of the said Legislature, when they were about enacting laws looking to the civil rights of the negro, he invited all the colored members of the Legislature to meet the presidents of the different railroads at the mansion to agree upon terms. And his suggestion was that the same accommodations should be guaranteed to the colored people as were given to the whites, but separate. The colored members indignantly refused to accede to the proposition, and the meeting proved to be a fraud on the part of the Governor. In the message above referred to he also says: "We may allow distinctions of race to run their course in their character of social sentiments, and thus permit an honorable rivalry in intellectual acquirements to grow up among the two sets of our population." This message was sent in favor of the establishment of a separate institution for colored youths.

It was useless for Alcorn to make his sarcastic reply to Senator Boutwell concerning Dartmouth College. All of us know full well that we need no civil rights bill for Dartmouth. Scores of colored young men have already graduated from that institution. Neither Dartmouth, Harvard, Yale, Cornell, Oberlin, nor Ann Arbor, refuses to admit colored students, but welcomes them. It is the more insignificant institutions that refuse to admit them.

My firm belief is that Senator Alcorn was extreme in his utterances, thinking that such a position would cause a reaction in the North, and thus kill the bill.

The Cotton Plant, a leading Republican paper in this State, states that, after Alcorn had made his speech several of his Democratic friends here repudiated him for it, but he wrote back to them telling them that he only made it for fun. If Senator Alcorn thinks his speech is a large bait for colored members of the Legislature, he is sadly mistaken. They will not bite "wulf bait!"

A Deserved Compliment—Genuine Heartfelt Welcome Extended to Colonel G. Wiley Wells.

HOLLY SPRINGS, June 22, 1874.

The return, yesterday, of Colonel G. Wiley Wells to his home in Holly Springs, Mississippi, after having been reappointed to the position of United States District Attorney for the Northern District of Mississippi, was an occasion of much outspoken joy by his many friends and political adherents. During the evening a large delegation of his colored friends assembled at his residence with a band of music, and many congratulations, after serenading him most handsomely, one of them came forward and presented him a copy of the following resolutions which had been unanimously adopted, to which the Colonel responded briefly, thanking them for their kindness, remarking that he was glad to be reassured of their confidence; that there had been an unjust war made upon him, but that nothing that had or might be done by his enemies or those who had claimed to be his friends, but were not,

could ever drive him from his devotion to the Republican party and its just principles; that he harbored no hatred towards those who had sought to injure him; he trusted the day would soon come when they would see the error of their ways and do him and all other Republicans justice.

Resolved, That we, the colored citizens of Marshall County, State of Mississippi, hail with unspeakable joy the timely return of Colonel G. Wiley Wells to our midst, and that we recognize in him one of the best, truest, and ablest Republicans in the State—one who had done more in the past four years to put down disorder, bring peace and security to the colored people in North Mississippi by protecting them in their lives, property, and in the enjoyment of domestic happiness than any other man in the State of Mississippi. To him we feel belongs the honor of having annihilated in this State the organization known as the Ku-Klux.

Resolved, That we do not countenance the actions of certain officials in attempting his removal from the position of United States District Attorney, and that we recognize in him a true friend to the colored race, and one more sincere in his purposes and bearings towards us than any of the officials who attempted his removal. In their efforts to overthrow Colonel Wells they have met with the disapproval of all true Republicans, and merited the denunciations of the colored people of North Mississippi, whose lives and property have been protected repeatedly by the timely action and sleepless energy of Colonel G. Wiley Wells.

Resolved, That the charges made against Colonel Wells are wholly untrue and without foundation in fact, prompted only by a mean spirit of malice and by a set or clique of men who would "rule or ruin."

Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be sent for publication to the Washington NEW NATIONAL ERA, Prairie News, and other Republican papers.

From Ohio.

MARIETTA, OHIO, June 15, 1874.

To the Editor of the New National Era:
In my last letter to the ERA, I omitted to notice the M. E. Church (colored), presided over by Rev. Mr. Lawson. This society is deserving of high praise, possessing as it does the greatest moral and intellectual force of any colored church that I have visited since I left home; it is also numerically the largest colored society that has come under my notice; and these commendable virtues, together with the exceeding liberality and high respectability of the people, make it one of the most prosperous churches anywhere to be found. It seems to be one of God's irrevocable laws to bless both churches and individuals most, who love most and contribute most, ungrudgingly, to His cause. Certainly the generous, cheerful givers receive the greatest favors and blessings from the Father's hands.

I wish to say further, that the people here, as a whole, are intelligent, enterprising and intelligent, and in this respect well compare many of our northern cities of the same size. I next visited Parkersburg, a town of about eight thousand inhabitants. This is quite a live town. I was more than pleased with the character of the place; it promises at no far distant day to become a large city, as it possesses all the requisite natural advantages to make it a city of hundreds where it now has but tens.

I have become acquainted with Mr. Watkins, a very energetic, and, in my judgment, the most efficient business man of color in the community. He is a man of irreproachable character and decidedly intelligent, as is evidenced from the fact that he is a subscriber to the NEW NATIONAL ERA. He has quite an extensive business, having a large store well stocked with dry goods, notions, groceries, etc., almost anything for family use. Mr. W. is a gentleman in every sense of the word and has a most excellent lady for a wife. They live comfortably and at the same time manage to accumulate property. He is a Virginian by birth, and knows how to, and does, treat strangers most hospitably.

Another man of merit here is the school-teacher, Mr. John Fletcher. He is a teacher of much ability, is unobtrusive, modest and retired in his manner, and exerts a wide influence among his people.

Mr. Fletcher is another colored school-teacher whom I have met who is perfectly willing to sacrifice his own personal interests rather than let the civil-rights bill fail. He properly says: What if it should turn every colored teacher out of employment! Have they not brains enough to make a living as well as other people who do not teach. He thinks it is a great mistake for teachers to oppose it on such selfish grounds, and deems it a reflection upon themselves.

Mr. H. B. Simms, a barber, is another man with whom I passed many a pleasant hour. He is a man of considerable force of character, well read and well informed—especially upon all the leading topics of the day. By the way, he is quite a politician, that is, he understands the history, theory, and workings of the American government, and more than all, he is well versed in the history of all nations, especially is he conversant on international law, and has an interesting family; he is quite a plain, unobtrusive man, and is quite popular. As an evidence of his character and ability it is necessary only to state that he was one of the electors to the Grant convention, of 1872, from the State of Virginia. This speaks well for him, considering the character of the State he represented. He is a Virginian by birth, and has lived in the State all his life, and all the education he has acquired in old and West Virginia. He is fifty years of age and has a comfortable home.

Mr. Simms, like all Virginians who have not departed from the habits of the fathers, is open hearted and benevolent, not one of the narrow-minded, close-contracted, parsimonious order that will own a house and live in the cellar for fear of having to entertain some one for a day or two; he is, in a word, a whole-souled man and a gentleman.

Now to the town, in which there were three churches—two Methodist and one Baptist. The A. M. E. church is presided over by

Mr. Wilson, who was originally a resident of Washington, D. C., and is a man on the shady side of fifty, but a person of a very decided character, and will make himself known and felt wherever he goes; he has a large congregation, and is building a new church.

The M. E. church is presided over by a Rev. Mr. Thornley; he is also a man of a good deal of ability, though not so old as Mr. Wilson; he is an energetic man and is much liked.

A white man by the name of Smith supplies the Baptist church. The minister is a man bowed down with the weight of many years. This society is building a new church, and bids fair to become the leading congregation of the place, because the Virginia colored people are Baptists and you can't make anything else out of them.

There are a number of other persons and families of whom I might speak in terms of commendation, but space forbids.

As to the white citizens, they are civil, polite and respectful, but I am told by the most discriminating and best informed colored men of the place (also in Wheeling), that Senator Boreman in voting against the civil rights bill, represented ninety-nine one-hundredths of his white constituents. But these time-servers must remember that once is not often; that twice is not always, and that seven thousand votes count something.

Our obligations and duties arise from what men and parties are, not from what they have been. This idea is clearly impressed upon the minds of all those with whom I have conversed, both in Ohio and Virginia, however low in the scale of being, and I think it was an unauthorized assumption on the part of Mr. Lynch, a colored member of the House, to pledge the united votes of the enfranchised colored people of the country, without qualification, to the Republican party. Any party that refuses to do us justice we are under no obligations to, and they have no claims upon us. The party platform is right, but the leaders and managers are blowing hot and cold with the same breath, else the bill would have passed long ago.

Yours for the right,
WM. E. WALKER.

DAYTON, OHIO, June 25, 1874.

To the Editor of the New National Era:
In all my readings of your paper during the past four years I do not recollect seeing in its columns at any time any communication from this historical city. Why this has been the case I know not. It certainly is not, however, because of a want of interest on the part of the colored people of Dayton in the success of your paper, nor a want of appreciation of the valuable services your paper is rendering the cause of the elevation and advancement of the colored race that no one from Dayton has written for your paper; for, for several years, your paper has been a welcome messenger to many of the colored people of Dayton.

The past history of Dayton, as regarded its treatment of its colored citizens, has not been complimentary. Mobs and violence, for a number of years, during the dark days of slavery, were frequent, and completely hindered the intellectual and material advancement of our people here. Churches were destroyed, houses burnt down, and the inmates driven away, and in some instances killed. So that for a number of years Dayton was a terror to the colored emigrant, who avoided it, and a dangerous place for the resident colored citizen. So that now, out of a population of 25,000, not more than six hundred are colored. But times have changed, and with it Dayton.

In our beautiful Woodland Cemetery the remains of colored and white alike are deposited to moulder away together. Four years ago upon the introduction of street railways in our city the colored man was not discriminated against, but rides in peace in street cars with his white fellow-citizen. In our beautiful new Opera House ("Music Hall") he may purchase a reserve seat and occupy it in peace.

The lamented Samuel Peters, elected to Congress in the Shreveport District, in Louisiana, last fall, and who died shortly after of yellow fever, was originally from Dayton, and up to the time of his leaving here four years ago he was Principal of the Colored Public Schools of this city, now the "Teeth District School." He was highly esteemed by the citizens here of all classes, and had a bright future before him when he was called away.

He was succeeded in the school here by your humble correspondent, and since so much has been said about the inferiority of the negro, especially by certain Congressmen during the discussion of the civil rights bill, I desire, through the columns of your paper, to present a case coming directly under my observation (which is only one case among scores of others) which proves that the negro mind is capable of as rapid and as high a degree of culture as the Anglo-Saxon mind.

Scarcely two years and a half ago Daniel Fleckinger Wilberforce, a native African boy, in his 14th year, was brought from "Shengay Mission," on the Western Coast of Africa, by United Brethren Missionaries and placed in the colored school of which I have charge. At the time of entering school he could read and write, and understood simply addition and subtraction in arithmetic; but grammar, history, geography, and United States history, he knew nothing about. Yet, in the short space of but two years and three months, this native African boy passes an examination for admission into the Dayton High School, getting a per cent. far above the average of the class of applicants, all the rest of whom were white. An average of 65 in all the branches examined in was required of each pupil to be admitted. The applicants were examined in grammar, arithmetic, United States history, defining, music, orthography, and penmanship. Young Daniel obtained an average of 82. In United States history getting 88. Two years and a half before scarcely knowing there was such a country as the United States.

There is no doubt he will be admitted to the High School. Nearly every member of the School Board, irrespective of party, expressing himself in favor of his admission. Thus far, the first time in the history of

RATES OF ADVERTISING.

TRANSIENT ADVERTISING RATES:
One insertion, per square, \$1.00
Subsequent insertions, 75
The space of ten lines Brevier type constitutes an advertising square in this paper.
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In all its branches, done with neatness and dispatch. Orders from all parts of the country will be promptly attended to.
Our friends in the Southern States will find it to their advantage to give us their orders for cards, stationery, etc., etc.

Dayton, is there a colored pupil in her High School, and one who has already, and will still, continue to do credit to himself and honor to his race.

Respectfully,
SOLOMON DAY.

From Maryland.

POOLESVILLE, June 16, 1874.

To the Editor of the New National Era:
The people of Montgomery county, though somewhat tardy in manifesting their gratitude to the late Charles Sumner, and although this may seem to you a late day for us to do homage to his fidelity and great efforts in behalf of human justice; yet we do not regard as ever too late to do honor to the memory of the great Senator.

Ever since Mr. Sumner's death there has been an expressed desire on the part of many of our people here, that we publicly assemble and in some way give testimony of our deep, heartfelt gratitude for the blessed work that this truly great man has performed in our behalf—and not in our behalf alone, but in behalf of Justice, Liberty, and God. Accordingly it was announced that a public meeting would be held in one of the school buildings, to gain information relative to, and pay a last tribute to, the departed hero. A large number of people of Poolesville and surrounding districts assembled in response to the announcement.

Mr. S. R. Foster, of Richmond, Va., had previously been invited and had given his consent to address the citizens on that occasion.

Mr. John Adams, who presided over the meeting, in an appropriate and respectful manner, introduced Mr. Foster who delivered an able and interesting eulogy, to which the large audience listened with marked attention. Mr. F. labored to impress upon their minds the efforts and accomplishments of Mr. Sumner in behalf of the lowly and downtrodden.

Mr. John Adams followed in a few brief remarks, endeavoring to impress upon the audience the work of Mr. Sumner in elevating the colored race.

The following resolutions were then offered by the Secretary, and unanimously adopted by the meeting:

WHEREAS, God in his all-wise Providence has seen fit to remove from the earth, Charles Sumner, one whom all revered as a lover of liberty in its fullest sense, a protector of the rights of the colored race; and who, by his death is the loss of a friend most dear, that we join with the nation in expressing our grief at his death and our gratitude for his life-work, to leaving the world better than he found it; therefore, be it

Resolved, That although we reside in the dark portions of Maryland, we feel the effect of the shock which informed the nation of the loss of the most venerable defender of humanity.

Resolved, That while we in humiliation submit to the order of Him who deserves all things for the best, that we lament the loss of a great genius, scholar and statesman, whose name is recorded with superior praise among the fearless martyrs of our country, the privileges of citizenship.

Resolved, That as the time of this "vigilant sentinel on the watch-tower of freedom" increased, while his admirable fame marches through life, as his mortality becomes less distinguishable from the dust, so his name shall grow immortal in the memories of future generations.

Resolved, That we tender a vote of thanks to Mr. S. R. Foster for his able and efficient address upon the life-work of Hon. Charles Sumner; and that these resolutions be forwarded to the NEW NATIONAL ERA for publication.

Miss Plummer, with several other ladies of Poolesville, in chorus sang several pieces appropriate to the occasion.

EDUITY.

Moral Reflections No. 15.
(CONTINUED.)

"For whosoever shall do the will of God, the same is my brother, and my sister, and mother."—Mark 3: 35.

We learn again the Scriptural evidence of belonging to Christ. "For whosoever shall do the will of God, the same is my brother, and my sister, and mother."

Religion is in "doing the will of God." It does not mean that we can purchase heaven by our own works, for the Scripture saith: By deeds of the law, shall no flesh living be justified. Nor does it mean that an orthodox faith is not necessary to salvation; for the same Scripture saith: "Without faith it is impossible to please God." "He that believeth shall be saved." "This is eternal life that they may know thee, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom he hath sent."

"Doing